

American Opinion Summary

Department of State

Permanent file copy

No. 122

November 27, 1962

CONSEQUENCES OF THE CUBAN CRISIS

Some speculation about a broad diminution of cold war tensions has followed statements by President Kennedy and Secretary Rusk as the Cuban crisis eased. The Soviet "military disengagement from the Western Hemisphere...has brightened the possibility of lessened tensions elsewhere in the world," the Philadelphia Inquirer comments.

The Milwaukee Journal, considering this "a time for hope," but "too early to start cheering," says that "we must be ready to take advantage of any honorable means of improving world stability and peace."

Some suggest that future Soviet conduct will give an indication as to whether a detente is possible. The Washington Star says that developments in regard to such matters as disarmament and Berlin may present evidence "as to whether the Cuban episode marked the end of a beginning, the beginning of an end, or merely that we called a bluff."

The New York Times sees "room for Western exploration of Premier Khrushchev's willingness to follow up his withdrawal on Cuba with a more accommodating stand on other issues," and says that the first test of possibilities should come at the disarmament conference.

The New York Herald Tribune concludes that "if the Russians want peace" and are prepared to go along with the U.S. in blocking attempts by Communist China to destroy world peace, "they can find in the attitudes of President Kennedy and Secretary Rusk an invitation to join in such an enterprise."

Considerable skepticism is evident. The Minneapolis Tribune warns that "caution still is in order in making any predictions about the Soviet Union's intentions." The Chicago Tribune suggests "greater vigilance than ever."

Remaining Problem of Cuba

Observers abruptly reject Castro's demands for UN inspection of U.S. bases from which Cuban exiles might operate and his insistence upon U.S. abandonment of Guantanamo, as conditions for UN inspection of Cuba. The "essential terms" for removal of offensive weapons from Cuba having already been hammered out between the U.S. and Russia, says the Washington Post, Castro, in effect, "is

Public Opinion Studies Staff • Bureau of Public Affairs

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- 2 -

CONSEQUENCES OF THE CUBAN CRISIS
(Contd.)

trying to get this country to offer a higher price for a horse we already have bought from the Soviet Union."

The Philadelphia Inquirer declares that Castro's "asinine set of conditions" shows that he "is even further out of touch with reality than was generally suspected." Premier Khrushchev personally has promised the dismantling and removal of the bombers and missiles, the Inquirer adds, and "if Castro objects, that is primarily Khrushchev's problem" (also, Wash. News, Wash. Star).

The Baltimore Sun suggests that U.S.-bound Mokoyan "undoubtedly is a party to the bizarre Cuban proposal." But "it's hardly likely," the New York Herald Tribune maintains, "that Mokoyan or any other middlemen will secure much support for Castro's proposal" (similarly, Gould Lincoln in Wash. Star).

Cuba will remain a difficult problem even with Russian weapons gone, a number continue to caution. "The very extravagance" of Havana's recent claims, declares the Washington Post, "is a fair reminder" that the "premise of all current policy" must be that "this country cannot rest with a Cuban Marxist-Communist regime tied to a hostile power from outside the hemisphere" (similarly, Scripps-Howard's Wash. News, Wash. Star).

OFFICIAL USE ONLY